

Well. What a year it has been.

A stormy and heated 2005 AGM should have told us what 2006 would be like.

On the positive side the club has seen increased membership and more swimmers at sessions.

In April we won the Merseyside & District Div4 Championship. Club Secretary, Joe Coy helped to raise £20,000 for Eccleston Mere School by swimming 5 miles in water of just 6 centigrade at Budworth Mere.

Probably the highlight of the year was in September when we had Olympic Medallist and Commonwealth Record holder, Steve Parry visit the club and give a training session, as well as sign autographs.

Throughout the year we have had a number of children pass the ASA Competitive Start Award, meaning they can now dive in at Championships.

In the latter part of the year we had a number of younger children take part in Tadpoles at Everton Park. The highlight (for me) was seeing Tom Hughes win the 200m Fly. Tom finished 11th overall and will surely be amongst the top swimmers at next year's event. In the 11 year olds Nathan Coy finished 9th.

Having been promoted to Div3 in the Merseyside & District League we have found the competition a lot tougher, but with two galas to go we are looking forward to improved results. In Speedo we were disappointing and in fairness to our children withdrew after the 1st round.

In the last few weeks we have had the Club Championships and they have been very exciting, with many races seeing just fractions of a second deciding the places.

From the Committee point of view, it has been a tough year. We started with 7 members and finished with 5. Our minimum requirement for a quorum. Many arguments have taken place, but that is because the committee members feel strongly about the club and the swimmers. Fortunately the committee have been helped by a number of parents volunteering to help at galas, time trials and the Club Championships etc. For that we thank them. If every parent gave a total of just 5 minutes during the year that equates to the equivalent of 6 training sessions.

Our finances are now more healthier than they have been for a while and we must thank Shaun Woodward for his magnificent fund raising efforts. The "Toffee Lotto" is a huge fundraiser for the club and we have had one parent win £1,000. Please do join. Not only are you helping **YOUR** club but you could win up to £25,000. We also have Football cards and again will be asking parents to take these in the future.

The next year will, once again, be challenging, very challenging. We need parents to join the committee. We need parents to help at training sessions and galas etc. As a committee and coaches we need to inform, and educate, parents of how swimming operates and why we do and do not do things. We need more representation at galas and amongst the governing bodies. Above all we need to be strong,